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Into the Fire...

A MONTHLY LEFT-HAND PATH EZINE

INTO THE FIRE... IS A MONTHLY WRITING COLLABORATION PROJECT IGNITED BY A SELECT FEW THAT DARE TREAD THE LEFT-HAND PATH. ONE TOPIC WILL BE CAST INTO THE FIRE EACH MONTH AND FORGED BY SOME OF THE FINEST MINDS SOCIAL NETWORKING HAS TO OFFER.

Gods Are Not Dead

Myth's Bitches

Written by Hollow Krist

Take it as read that any serious problem with believing in Myths lies in the sneaky suspicion or firm accusation that the incredible accounts within them are a) fables, allegories, parables b) political machinations c) impossible due to our knowledge of physics, history, reality d) fabricated e) based on some true but now garbled re-telling f) feature Gods. I speak not for the benefit of the LHP but the NHP, the No-Hand Path, the LHP denotes boundaries in being Left; places it will not go, like conformity, mundanity, the Herd – whatever they may be, the Left opposes itself to the Right and nothing is understood without engaging with all forms. For me, it is a necessity to look at everything as useful, and whilst they may seem old and irrelevant for the reasons above in these enlightened rational times, No sorcerers of any path will walk their journey without being assailed by Myths. Since Myths are immortal, and sovereign, they are synonymous with a form of Gods.

What are Gods but characters used in stories to describe forces greater than us and the battle for their Sovereignty; Gods we are expected to draw example from, to wage our own in their names?

The outward disagreement between Theism and Theistic has not impacted the existence of Gods – their appearance to degrees including somewhat and entirely maybe, but not their existence. The typical battle between forces of good and evil, right or wrong waged across the planet by the minute through debates between humans over the triviality of truth is one of the key aspects enshrined in Myths through their revelations of human behaviour, comedy, tragedy, and folly of timeless interactions through Archetype. Such battles to prove or disprove anything, which we

engage in daily, only cements the reality of the forces that Myth denotes; namely of forces that fill us with a pressing need to be right, or with Lust, with Hubris, with Love, with Arrogance, or Delusion, to champion something over something else and in due course to be exposed to Irony, Correction, and/or play a part in the micro-story in such a way that we cannot help but imitate the archetypes and character interactions of old.

Whilst an often harmless exercise for humans to need to have their say, this 'need' is at root the same force that has driven humanity to its bloodiest wars or to share in co-operative triumphs. Such a force has no perfect name, but thousands, for we all call Myth a different name, assign another's reality as misinformed or insanity. In the end it makes no difference to its potency. These forces seize us and whip us around like raindrops in a greater storm fired by the need to be heard, or to champion our Gods above theirs. No less explosively, conniving or strategically than the figures in Myth, and our involvement is the seed for an Unfolding. It may be that we find out that we were wrong/right, or that our actions led to the mis/fortune of another, or how our actions/words had some impact further down the chain on how the story turned out and how it turned out for them and for us. With regret, satisfaction, or tragedy. It acts upon all of us nonetheless, without our consent and often without our appreciation that this is one of many forces that all humanity are bound to experience and like the same sun all of humanity that ever lived have ever seen, it is immutably an inheritance that myth has recognized and immortalized as a commonality to all human beings – among many, many others.



In short: We cannot escape Myth or transcend them, we are Myth's bitches.

There was a time during the early days of Sumeria when its myths were veined with Gods and Humans on equal footing working together in Harmony. At an indeterminate time in History, the fundamental relationship between Gods and Humans in Myth was changed; they were divided and set at each other's throats. This is most clearly evident and accessible in the Eden Mythos of Christianity and the Fall of Angels which is followed by the Fall of Man. Hereon, Gods became external to us, exalted above us, and in many cases hostile or indifferent to us. The introduction of a more potent division between Mankind and Gods via the development of morality, some say through influence by Zoroastrianism and its emphasis on Good and Ill assimilated by the Persians and Medes who were in a position to spread the change widely through pre-Judaism.

Yet no less in these stories which are among the oldest that have been recorded, were the same forces at play of Battles of Will, Force, Spirit, and their minor counterparts of Vice and Virtue, Tragedy and Comedy, the petty and the divine, injustice and the actions of others that were part of a larger story, than in the Greek, Egyptian, Aztec, Australian. These stories span time because the forces were not restricted to those ancient climes, they moved through time, with us, and continue to dominate us. The schism that has developed with the unconscious knowing and being privy and part of the reality of these acting forces that Myth describes, and modern insistence that denies them, has caused neuroticism that has seen us forget why these things are called Living Stories and to ignore Powers that are right in front of our face.

The stories told, whether a short fireside tale or an epic odyssey may be outlandish, may cause us to shake our heads in disbelief that such things could ever be taken as real, to suspend our notions and knowledge of physics, or give us cause to think that there was a time long ago when people were different, somehow less developed intellectually than we are, and that they believed and even saw Giants, Demons, Gods who appeared to them, haunted them, who were visible and real either through ignorance or suggestion by savvy leaders, witchdoctors and the like. That they were in some sense taken for a ride by their own gullibility or lack of experience, lack of context or education. That in all cases, there is a rational explanation for the creation of these Myths. And there isn't.

It is not difficult to re-tell any Myth and substitute modern conveniences, names and places without so much as ripple in the pond; and it is because the wrapping, the messengers, like the other-worldly power of dreams to conspire new and endless ways to say the same thing, are just that, they are Forms, they are Wrapping, stepping stones or handholds that relate to us, translating the alien reality of the Phyrn (The World matrix) into a lan-

guage that we can grasp as individuals and as groups, viz. stories which give rise to an understanding and relationship to the Land, its resources, its terrible powers, regeneration, rebirth, life, death and all of these other forces that, whether we believe in Gods/Myths of any kind persist and play out day after day in taking possession of us to enact Archetypes, or ask us to believe in Gods above, below, or within.

Love being a prime example of such a Force. Anyone who has fallen in Love knows its insurmountable power, to cause us to Love someone forbidden or unattainable or culturally taboo makes no difference to that force; it operates without our consent and chains us to that Love, and like a drug it hurts when we don't feed it, when we try to go against it. And That is the type of sentience in Earths powers and domains that such Myths arose from, it is what Myths relate; struggle, war, strife, tyranny, suffering, triumph, resilience, change, sorrow, absurdity, cycles, archetypes.

A high percentage of music is dedicated to this Force, which takes us from shallow to shining eyed mad men and women, seized with lust, passion, giggles, joy and a timeless bond – and the dark side of Love which tears us apart, creates confusion, hurt, pain, suffering, agony, heartbreak. There is no pain like a broken heart and the timeless mourning of lost love or new love is a power that has endured aeons.

There are a great many forces greater than us, and early humanity recognized and enshrined these. We may imagine the world of ancient times in which these myths arose as very different from the one we know littered with electric bulbs and street lighting, even set apart from older times when devices such as the torch or lantern were available – and a very dark time ruled by darkness the majority of the time. What were benign landscapes by day would have transformed, shadows play tricks especially in the moonlight, but more so in the utter darkness where wo/man is at their weakest, his eyesight ill-developed for a world lacking light, and the daily construction by the sun of the edges, boundaries, dangers and risk cues that daylight brings. In darkness the senses would have had to rely on sound, fearful of every mad screech or creature thumping or crashing through the undergrowth with little fear of men, and who may in fact be a very cleverly disguised enemy.

Where Gods are dead as entities that watch us, favour us, or made us in the modern mentality, other Gods have arisen, for this is an inescapable aspect of these suprapersonal forces, they are older, larger and set in motion a thousand myths precisely because they were understood to be Sovereign over man. There is no less danger in ignoring Gods above than ignoring Gods below – whether people are given reason to deny the existence of external Gods for lack of proof, for adoption of modern sensibilities, for the need to separate themselves from superstition, to assimilate into their culture, to hail intellect and critical thinking over a sense of primitive savagery; or to repress dreams, their desires, their secrets, to think

they can slow or stop Time, or rise above hubris, or avoid misfortune; the Old World remains mired in this false escape we have told ourselves exists by telling ourselves over and over that the Gods of old were for others, for a time long ago, for tribes that dance around fires and have not yet attained the cultured understanding of the world that we the civilized world, have.

Choose a Myth. Substitute its characters for people you know that fit them. Change the places, the time, the location to those you recognize, as has been done many times with the classical drama Romeo and Juliet. The relics are interchangeable because long ago Myth identified the placeholders. In one modern retelling via a zombie who retains his faculty to think (and eventually talk) like a human and falls in love with a young female survivor. See for yourself the timeless power of archetype and the power that understanding them can bring to the Sorcerer.

Exploring, Adopting in part or Living Myths opens the door into the realization of the forces that dominate human existence and its relationship with nature that these Myths have immortalized and been retold again and again because they are alive today as they were thousands of years ago. Recognizing and extracting the underlying reference to these powers, these “forces of THEM” is to open the gate to the Abyss, for they run through all of us, tyrannize the life and bearing of every human being who is at the helm or mercy of some story or another that has changed greatly in appearance but little in esoteric potency. Embrace this undying inheritance. It did not develop by chance as a fashion.



Out of Her Tree... A tale of Communal Reinforcement

Written by Sin Jones

Communal Reinforcement *is a social phenomenon in which a concept or idea is repeatedly asserted in a community, regardless of whether sufficient empirical evidence has been presented to support it.* — Robert T Carroll, Skeptics Dictionary 1998

In the West, the correlation between crime rates, mental illness, strange behavior in humans and animals alike to the phases of the moon is one such phenomenon; coined The Lunar-Effect. In spite of the lack of scientific evidence to support it, the belief continues to take hold in future generations though *Communal Reinforcement*. The Media is but one community participant in perpetuating ideas, using artful language to lead the viewer to believe this information is backed with facts, thus must be true, even if other members of the same community point out the contrary. Like any community, there will always be members that hold more influence over others. When people in positions of power wield information towards a cause, the majority of the community falls in line.

EPILEPSY: Epilepsy & Behavior (2004), a study found no connection between epileptic seizures and the full moon, even though some patients believe their seizures to be triggered full moon. phases

PSYCHIATRIC VISITS: Mayo Clinic (2005), reported in the journal Psychiatric Services, a study looked at how many patients checked into a psychiatric emergency department between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. over several years. They found no statistical difference in the number of visits on the three nights surrounding full moons vs. other nights.

MENSTRUATION: Winnifred B. Cutler (1980), published in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, a study that claims a connection. Cutler found 40 percent of participants had the onset of menstruation within two weeks of the full moon (which means 60 percent didn't). Since 1980, there hasn't been a single study conducted to support Cutler's claims.

Mythology is essentially a continuum of cultural folklore, as it provides a narrative of ideas to be reinforced by a community. Take for instance the Lunatic. Derived from Latin lunaticus (masculine) and lunatica (feminine), extrapolated from a disease of language. Meaning, in context, may be something like 'of the Moon', or 'affected by the Moon'. Italic Latins of Ancient Rome were certainly affected by Communal Reinforcement. The Empire encapsulated many cultures and their lore [Artifacts - Oral Tradition - Culture - Practices]. The earliest known moon-lore comes from Sumer in Ancient Mesopotamia. This corpus of Sumerian literature may not have been well known until the 19th century to the modern world but to the ancient world through trading and invasion, there was certainly an impression made on the peoples that came in contact with them. Like any oral tradition, there's plenty of room for cultural interpretation.

Excerpt from The Huluppu Tree:

In the first days when everything needed was brought into being,
In the first days when everything needed was properly nourished,
When bread was baked in the shrines of the land,
And bread was tasted in the homes of the land,
When heaven had moved away from the earth,
And earth had separated from heaven,
And the name of man was fixed;
When the Sky God, An, had carried off the heavens,
And the Air God, Enlil, had carried off the earth . . .

The Journey of Nanna to Nippur

The Moon is created in what is accounted by some translations as a rape myth. The goddess Ninlil and her mother dwell in the city of Nippur. She warns her daughter that if she bathes in the canal Nunbirdu, Enlil will see her and will want to make love to her. The tale provides subtle clues about age-appropriate sex within Sumerian culture. Ninlil goes to take a swim anyway against her mother's advice, and there's Enlil enticing the girl with a kiss. She refuses him telling him she's too young to make love. He plots to take her by building a barge and taking her by force upon it. She is impregnated with the moon-god (Nanna), which enrages the other gods, as an immoral act. He is cast out of Nippur (regardless of his station) but Ninlil follows, and leads to a plan to ensure the moon is not born in the Underworld. He impregnates the girl with (3) gods that stand in the place of Nanna in the underworld, leaving the moon to be free to rise to the heavens. What follows serves as a warning to

those that fall under the Nanna-Seun (Sin) affliction.

Hearing this tale incites moral outrage and people cry out LUNACY! Lore and Mythology provide a narrative base for the practical and esoteric rolled into one. Telling the story isn't enough, in order for Communal Reinforcement to take hold, there must be testimonials by other members of the community. In the case of Ancient Rome, there would be countless testimonies by plebs suffering from various afflictions thought to be some form of punishment from the gods. Some moral slight, that serves as a generational curse. Those holding more weight would come from the upper echelon of society, impressed upon by their servants. Behold: A top-down model to be used to keep the people within a system of control, in spite of their numbers. *Civilization*. Out of fear of proxy punishments, these people were either cast out or placed in the hands of diviners, or physicians.

Today, even with wide-spread awareness of mythic lore used as vice by those in power, no matter what deific mask is worn the same Communal Reinforcement is used against the Lunatics. Whether afflicted by some neurological or mental disorder, any person not acting in accordance with the code of behavior of said community will assuredly be labeled lunatic and treated with contempt.

In a recent purveyance of 'Satanic Communities', I came upon Miss Carolina Martinez. She seemed to have joined and been kicked out of every forum/Social Network active, for such an affliction; her overly excited tonal postings, YouTube video content treated as spam (which has since been taken down), and her overall message. Survey Says: *She's out of her tree!*



In a recent contribution she pens a spell:

In Lak'ech* Mayan Spell: I am you, and you are me.

"Once in the union of time and space, Satan met Mara in the Tree of Life, kissing. He found love, while she found a Raisin and so we can find them raising us in a baby carriage. The Goddess/God Lore came together in a Tree, kissing. Making sure that Mara and Satan are All in existence, nonexistence, and beyond; for the word Evil will be kept forever as sacred to all; for the one Totality has set upon themselves to live with all dedication to any Evil in all of creation. Forever we will be remembered by Whole One in honor and respect."

She goes on to write:

"Myth is our method of bridging 'Realities' together. Any reality is created by totality. Therein every division and experience is the One holder of every Name. Names represent realities. With these codes you may travel to all creations' forms. Depending on how you write, and build your reality, you will always reap your desired outcome. Whether it is to be purely enjoyable in all knowledge or in pure emptiness I always consider you to be the One I created every concept with. No matter how much we expand you will always be the only One here, to me. "

Carolina Martinez/.•*MaraSatan*•.

What was it that MaraSatan was trying to say?
Did anyone ask for clarity?
Was anyone listening?
Who listens to lunatics?
Does it make a difference to ask such questions?

It seems that Communal Reinforcement, took hold and the Lunatic was cast-out.

In Buddhist writings, the deva Mara is constantly distracting Buddha from reaching Nirvana. Mara literally translates to death and represents all that is connected to re-birth (Samsara). There are said to be four different forms of Mara: 1) Human Mortality, 2) The Lord of Death, 3) Devices of Moral Defilement, 4) The divinities of the Retinue. Mara personifies impulses, transcendence, and turning mundane things into alluring desires. There is a trickster element, as Mara also holds the wheel of becoming; the turning of the wheel of the sensual 'feeling' realm. She certainly incited much laughter, as she explained that fashion magazines were her magical tomes, while she ranted about with passionate madness about the whole of Totality and the beauty in all things. She was bagged and tagged a Troll: Communal Reinforcement. Maybe she was trolling but to such a diva, she probably considered it cruising.

There are two main appearances of Mara to the Buddha, once before he reaches Enlightenment (Bodhi Tree) and the other right before his death (Samsara). To distract him from enlightenment, he brings his daughters in tow to entice the Buddha with pleasure. This distraction would challenge him to deny it. In order to liberate himself, he dissolved the mirage, as Mara seeks to hold all beings within his domain; the domain of pleasure which aids man in enjoying the world, vs. detachment from it and a preemptive strike against those too anxious to leave it.

The union of Mara and Satan is the everyday transient existence of the realm of pleasure. Perhaps Miss Martinez was invading the space of those that weren't quite prepared for a bit of disruption, a momentary pleasure of laughter, bewilderment and challenging the status quo of 'community'.

Even the Lunatic can grasp the concept of Vamachara. The Hindus considered Mrtyu (death) to be part of a cyclic process, and any form of it carried out by Mara would not be considered sin. Still, it's a loveless job. It is said (Santi Parva) that when Brahma gave this great work to the goddesss Mara, she wept tears of joy.



Expect trolls

Myths! Why So Serious?

Written by TimisHardcore

Let me start by giving you an answer(s) from Joseph Campbell on his interpretation of myths.

[Joseph Campbell](#) writes: *In the long view of the history of mankind, four essential functions of mythology can be discerned. The first and most distinctive – vitalizing all – is that of eliciting and supporting a sense of awe before the mystery of being.* ^[40] *The second function of mythology is to render a cosmology, an image of the universe that will support and be supported by this sense of awe before the mystery of the presence and the presence of a mystery.* ^[41] *A third function of mythology is to support the current social order, to integrate the individual organically with his group;* ^[42] *The fourth function of mythology is to initiate the individual into the order of realities of his own psyche, guiding him toward his own spiritual enrichment and realization.* ^[43]

In a later work Campbell explains the relationship of myth to civilisation:

"The rise and fall of civilisations in the long, broad course of history can be seen largely to be a function of the integrity and cogency of their supporting canons of myth; for not authority but aspiration is the motivator, builder, and transformer of civilisation. A mythological canon is an organisation of symbols, ineffable in import, by which the energies of aspiration are evoked and gathered toward a focus." ^[44]

And yet the history of civilization is not one of harmony.

There are two pathologies. One is interpreting myth as pseudo-science, as though it had to do with directing nature instead of putting you in accord with nature, and the other is the political interpretation of myths to the advantage of one group within a society, or one society within a group of nations. ^[45]

Campbell gives his answer to the question: *what is the function of myth today?* in episode 2 of [Bill Moyers's The Power of Myth](#) series.

I love how Joseph Campbell brings to life the myths of old and how he sees all myth to be a compass of the soul. To me myth is man's imagination gone wild, his ability to take his imagination to the highest level and act out the one man wrecking crew he believes himself to be.

What would Satanism be without myth; I would venture to guess just plain old atheism and nothing more, what about the LHP or the RHP? We need these myths to push us on and allow us to become more than what we see in the mirror.



What is myth if not the mind exaggerating or using hyperbole to explain what it found to be unexplainable at the time, in my opinion? To me the world has become dull and I find myself in a place where there is less imagination and more people claiming "rational thinking" and yet those that want us to believe they are more rational seem to use the most mythology in their ideology only to dumb it down and make it boring and palatable almost, well, ok not almost but bland and putrid not edible or tasteful to be sure. I do not care for those types that have to dumb down their ideals as to make it more likable to the masses. Myth for me is about taking on the world and overcoming it raising high my arms in victory, understanding that myth is born out of a portion of truth and that portion is what I hold onto with both hands.

Myth is personal to the beholder, taking from it what you need to move along your path, for some it is just a label used to pretend to be a rebel to the status quo and yet when they are put to the test and the fire is stoked they down play the part and the adversary has become neutered and they very much blend in with the status quo they talk about being against.

For me myth is no joke, in it are the ingredients to make such heroes as the Gladiators, Samurai and Superman, Batman and others possible; they pave the way to becoming what we want, to live as we wish. I, by no means, am saying that you can fly or that you are or can become bullet proof or for that matter, that you are some superhuman individual if you only can get in touch with the right myth. I am simply trying to say that those old stories (and the new ones that seem a bit over the top as far as reality goes) are the tales that inspire me to go further than ever before. I see those that have been told they cannot do something, yet accomplish so much. It is, in my opinion, a testament to my point here. I will take the man that strives for what he is told he cannot be over the person that goes only for what is in his reach.

Myth allows me to be a partaker in the 'divine nature,' pushes me to reach higher and obtain those things that I would not reach for otherwise.

Myth in Satanism

Written by T.C. Downey

Part of the issue in understanding Satanism, is that the definition, is based partly on the etymology, partly in its praxis, and partly in its mythology. The result is often chaos. Satan can be loosely defined, to mean the adversary. One must ask, "To what end?". Perhaps it means averse to all concepts, individuals, and institutions; strike that of one's own hypocrisies. Without that hypocrisy, it becomes strict adversarialism; we are then left never having a stance, a position to call our own, or even an identity. You would need to, if you were being consistent, challenge the concept of self and even the concept of challenging concepts. You see how this begins to fall apart?

This in my mind, is why I think it is important to realize, that a word; is simply a one dimensional representation of something. That 'something' being represented is the commonly held understanding of its meaning. When that meaning aims to explain a (super)natural or social phenomenon it becomes myth.

Satanism has been injected with a healthy dose of myth. This is where we get the search for personal truth, the exalting (deification) of the self, and so on. Variations in interpretation of myth, mix the concepts of Satan, Lucifer, and the (a) devil. They draw from a vast array of religious texts, folklore, and modern fictitious works. One such work, is the myth of 'The Fall'; which is described by Milton in "Paradise Lost". Milton seeds Satanic Myth, in a combination of two quotes.

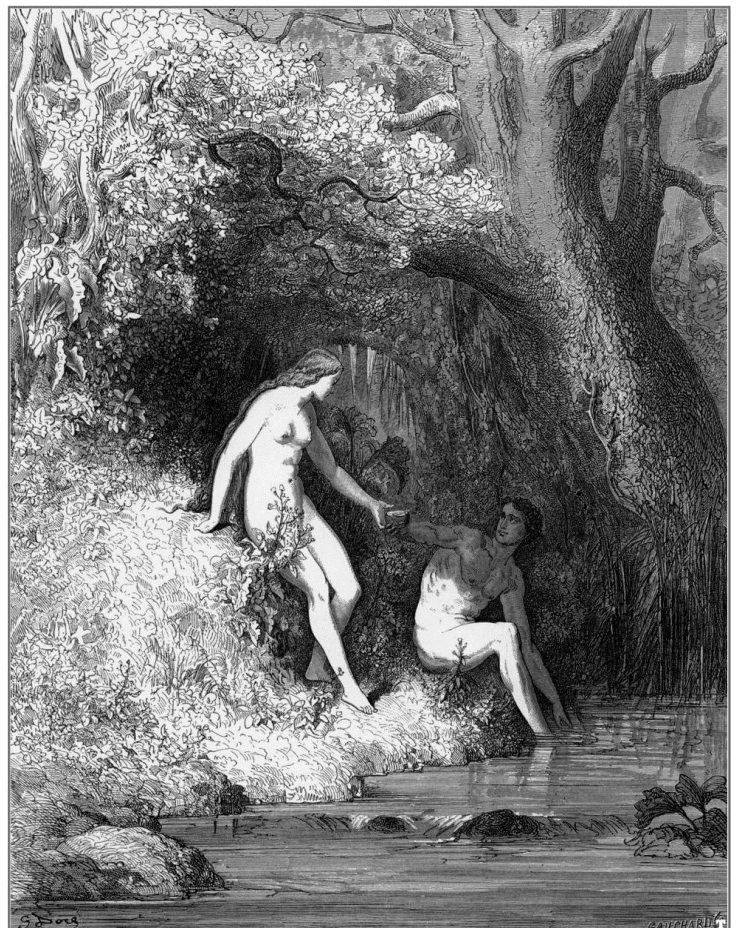
Better to reign in Hell, than serve in Heaven."

*The mind is its own place, and in it self
Can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven."*

There is a logic behind the quotes, suggesting that Satan can be anything wants Satan to be. That his choices are his own, his mind (will) is sacrosanct and eternal. Making a Heaven of Hell/ Hell of Heaven does not suggest a freedom from definitions, but a subjectivity where the relative desire and perspective of the individual is king. An inversion of that which is considered right or moral, not just for the sake of opposition, but in spite of its hypocrisy.

Another myth is reflected in LaVey's presented philosophy is "Responsibility to the responsible". A mantra often moralized, as some call to a cautiousness of the consequences, in a pejorative sense. Followed to the extreme, the inversion of morality; leads to the advocating of many 'atrocities'. Some "self-styled satanists" try to disavow the violation of these sacred-cows (murder, pedophilia, etc.), in order to blunt the negative edge of Satanism. LaVey himself, offered up a hodge-podge of apologetics, for the hypocritical and self-righteous nature of Satanic Myth; though I digress.

Ultimately, it is a matter of how that myth is presented in consensus. There are those, who are morally adverse to, the evils of outright malignant and criminal behavior; clearly present in the myth of Satan. This begs the question; why would they carry the name Satan at all? You cannot divorce the devil from 'the fall', any more than you can have a forest without trees.



Filling In the Blanks

Written by Canis Machina

Rising waters fill a river basin. The river fills bank to bank flowing toward the delta in the North of Egypt. It happens every year. Heavy rains upstream usher in this annual deluge ending the dry season. This is fact, but it hasn't always been the explanation. Enter myth and legend. Lost to the ages, but not forgotten is a tale of Isis and husband Osiris; mutilated and slain by brother Set. This annual flood is the tears of loss and sorrow for her fallen husband and brother. This legend, like many others serves a practical need. Although archaic and completely erroneous, it fills in the blanks and removes a question mark. It gives explanation for what is an unknown. In this case why the river floods.

That small piece is just the beginning. It is just one flood myth amid a backdrop of belief placed in fantastical occurrences that still exist today. It is a disposition of mankind to put weight into superstition. It predates "culture", art, agrarian society, and even written language. It is so ingrained in man that it is genetic (VMAT2 gene). They are the stories passed down throughout the eons. Oratorically at first, then later put into text. It morphed, mutated, twisted, and changed as it spread across the globe with the migration of man. The lineage can be traced back to a common source. Early man, telling tales in a primitive tongue. Explaining what is beyond their comprehension. Providing answers where there is doubt.

Something changed, however. Written language, and the rise of empires. Nomadic clans began to coalesce into societies, populations rose. The tales once passed by mouth were written down. It was the dawning of religion. In this metamorphosis a new use was developed for mythology, and another practical need warped these tales into every aspect of life. The need to maintain their societies. It is the mythos that defines a culture. The customs, belief, and rituals are a product of their superstitions and leaps of faith.

For an example of this, I'll stick to the cultures that interest me most, Mesoamerica. The tribal beliefs of Central America were so intertwined with their mythos it is one in the same. Pantheons of supernatural beings dominated life. They controlled the sun, weather, harvest, day, night, fire, life, death, the heavens, and the underworld. Every phenomenon explained away by serpents, jaguars, sky gods, spirits, and most importantly direct communication and appeasement.

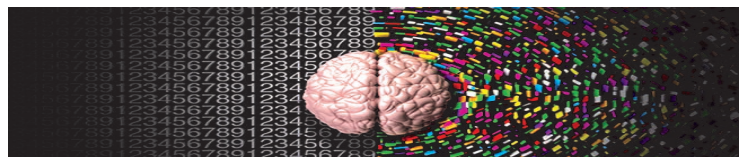
Superstition reigned supreme.

In the Aztec "Legend of the Five Suns" all gods sacrificed themselves so mankind could live. In turn it was seen that human/animal sacrifice sustained the universe.

Everything is tonacayotl: the spiritual flesh-hood on earth. Everything —earth, crops, moon, stars and people— springs from the severed or buried bodies, fingers, blood or the heads of the sacrificed gods. Humanity itself is macehualli, those deserved and brought back to life through penance." A strong sense of indebtedness was connected with this worldview. Indeed, nextlahualli (debt-payment) was a commonly used metaphor for human sacrifice, and, as Bernardino de Sahagún reported, it was said that the victim was someone who gave his service." - León-Portilla (1963) -

This was seen throughout Mesoamerica. Superstition was tied in with their belief. But what happens when belief changes? When Spaniards conquered the region "sky gods" became Jesucristo and Lady Guadalupe. Sacrificial animals became communion and rosary beads. One ideology supplanted with another. Catholicism (monotheism) replaced the pantheons. The previously held belief had been deemed heretical and barbaric. Once more, a desire to maintain what the controlling class deemed a functioning society was dictated by unsubstantiated claims. Myth remained an absolute.

This drive can be seen in any culture you choose. All have their myths, All serve to maintain some semblance of control, whether societal or spiritual. The myth will change. The dictation will vary. The imprinting in the minds of those subjected will not. The morals of modern society are interlaced with the myth of their creation. The concepts of right and wrong, piety and sin, good and evil, legal and illegal, all sprang from the same propensity to put weight in superstition, and fill in the blanks of an unknown. It is programmed into mankind's psyche, and dates back as far as language.



The Myth of the Man-Eaters

Written by Lehi Drew

The old man's stubble cast a shadow on his face, darker than the moonless night. The smoke of the smoldering coals basked the area in a shimmering mystery. The young ones huddled closer together to keep warm from the cold fear dripping down their spines.

"My grandfather used to tell me what I'm about to tell you. I used to shrug off the old bat's mad tales as a poor attempt to scare a dumb kid," he whispered ominously, "but I've seen the abyssal horrors lurking at the very edge of reality."

The now trembling children leaned in closer.

"They've been with us since the dawn of time. They are forever hungry, and always looking for an opportunity to devour your insides. Like beasts of the field, we fear the predators stalking our meat in dark unknown night!"

A bunch of tiny audible gasps squeak out feebly into the rising smoke.

Savoring the taste of their fear, the old man continued, "The eaters of men are a timeless nightmare. Sometimes you can hear the bloodcurdling shrieks of their victims if you listen carefully at night. They want you to hear and be afraid. They count on it, and are drawn to it like moths to the moon. Their bloodlust is never sated even after consuming a succulent human heart."

One of the boys stood up in vivid disbelief. "My mom says that whenever you're scared you just need to pray to God and he'll make things good again."

One bushy brow arched above sunken eyes. The heartless old man brushed off the comment and exclaimed, "Even if there were a God, he wouldn't stop them. He never has, and he never will, even among men of the cloth. It's only a matter of time before they come after you too!"

At this, the tired boney frame waved away the children to their tents before retiring to his own. That night, each child caught a glimpse within their nightmare-ridden dreams.

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The histories of our species have always been passed down orally through Myth. Tales are constantly being weaved, both fresh and new. Brightly colored and intricate threads are woven into many different kinds of fabrics.

Overtime, they fray at the edges, rip, and the colors fade. The messages these stories contain distort, but may continue to inspire longer depending on their lever of craftsmanship. The longest lasting thread is the dark heart string. The best Myths pour from the heart, and therein lies all *Evil*.





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